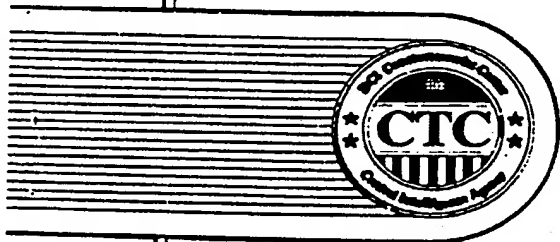


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Director of Central Intelligence



Terrorism Review

b3

27 June 1991

Counterterrorist Center

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Terrorism Review b3

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	Recent diplomatic efforts to gain the release of Western hostages in Lebanon appear to be making headway. Iran, Hizballah, and Israel all seem inclined to go along with some form of exchange. The release of all 12 Western hostages at once is unlikely, however, in view of the number of players involved and the magnitude of issues yet to be resolved. b3	
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Article	Syria: Improved Relations With PFLP-GC b3	7
	Relations between Syria and the PFLP-GC have been rocky for some time—particularly during the Gulf crisis—but now seem to be improving. b1, b3	
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This review is published biweekly by the DCI Counterterrorist Center. Other elements of the CIA as well as other agencies of the US Intelligence Community are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Executive Editor. b3

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27 June 1991

Terrorism Review (b3)

27 June 1991

Focus

Iran-Hizballah-Israel: Inching Toward a Hostage Release (b3)

Diplomatic efforts to gain the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon have increased since the end of the Gulf war. The intensified activity has produced gains in some areas. The main obstacles revolve around the complexity of a process that includes numerous players. This promotes misunderstandings and last-minute maneuvers. Iran, still the key, continues in a posture of bargaining in an attempt to maximize political and economic gains. (b3)

Hizballah has admitted that it holds the remains of two Israeli Defense Force (IDF) soldiers killed in Lebanon and has offered to trade the remains for the release of Shia and Palestinian prisoners. Israel has long sought to secure the return of seven IDF soldiers listed as missing in action in Lebanon. Senior Hizballah and Israeli officials have publicly supported such an exchange:

- Shaykh Abbas Musawi, Hizballah's newly elected Secretary General, voiced support for this proposal in late May.
- Uri Lubrani, a senior Israeli official responsible for Lebanese affairs, endorsed the trade on 22 May. Lubrani said that Hizballah's willingness to engage in such a trade was an "encouraging step in the right direction." (b3)

Iran's Position

Iran intensified its efforts to resolve the hostage issue in early May. Settlement seems to be a serious goal, but there appears to be continuing confusion over the likely benefits. Tel-Aviv has received positive signals from Tehran suggesting that Hizballah was willing to discuss the hostage issue. President Rafsanjani's interest in revisiting the issue was probably motivated by economic pressures and a desire to play an integral role in Persian Gulf security arrangements. Several factors made it easier for Rafsanjani to push the hostage agenda forward: the escape of 15 Shia terrorists from a Kuwaiti prison last year during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the renewal of diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom in late 1990, and Britain's decision in early 1991 to release an Iranian implicated in anti-Rushdie terrorism. (b3)

The *Tehran Times* recently suggested that two American hostages may be freed "in the near future." In an editorial published on 12 June, the paper, which usually reflects Iran's official position, stated that "hectic activities for the release of Western hostages are continuing." Feedback from Turkish and German discussions with Iranian officials on the hostage issue reportedly also suggests that a release is on the horizon. (b3)

Hizballah's Position

Hizballah is willing to deal and certainly wants to explore possible compensation. Shaykh Abbas Musawi, in a 6 June interview, stated that the group would be willing to trade the remains of two IDF soldiers for the release of 1,100 Shia and Palestinian prisoners held by the Israelis. (b1, b3)

[REDACTED] b1 b3
 Hizballah does not speak with one voice on this issue, however, and last-minute maneuvering and reversals by individual leaders appear to have derailed agreements on more than one occasion. (S NF)

Hostage holder Imad Mughniyah, leader of the Islamic Jihad Organization (IJO), has been uncharacteristically quiet during this latest round of hostage-related activity, so he presumably is not opposed to it. Although we do not know if Mughniyah's group is the one holding the two Israeli soldiers' remains, he was a military commander in southern Lebanon at the time of their disappearance. The escape of the 15 Shia terrorists from Kuwait has removed one of his principal demands. Imad Mughniyah's group is responsible for the continued detention of Terry Anderson, Thomas Sutherland, Terry Waite, and John McCarthy.

Israel's Position

Tel Aviv's primary goal is to secure the release of the seven IDF soldiers missing in Lebanon—or their remains, since Israel believes most are dead. Israel also is attempting to secure the release of Ron Arad, a navigator shot down over Sidon, Lebanon, in 1986. [REDACTED] b1 b3

Outlook

The release of all 12 Western hostages at once is unlikely. The evidence, on balance, continues to suggest that Tehran sees the hostages as offering advantages to be exploited in bilateral relations with Western powers. British willingness to resume relations last fall and the recent comments in Parliament by British Foreign Office Minister of State Hogg no doubt have encouraged this view. Tehran continues to demand that Washington release its frozen assets, linking proceedings at the Hague Tribunal to the fate of Western hostages held in Lebanon. Tehran is pushing London to raise diplomatic relations to the ambassadorial level and to increase Iran's representation in the United Kingdom. In addition, Iran believes the British are pressing the European Economic Community to maintain sanctions. A *Tehran Times* editorial published in late April stated that any hostage release would exclude the two German hostages. The group responsible for the detention of the German hostages continues to demand the release of the two Hammadi brothers who are imprisoned in Germany for their involvement in terrorist operations. (S NF) b3

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Highlights

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Significant Developments

b1, b3

Middle East

Iraq

Head of the Arab Liberation Front Dies

The death of Arab Liberation Front (ALF) leader and PLO Executive Committee member Abd al-Rahim Ahmad from cancer on 30 June probably will not affect the operational activities of the Iraqi-based Palestinian group. Ahmad has been only a figurehead since becoming leader of ALF in 1975. His activities have been limited since he became ill in early 1990, and he was residing in Amman when he died. ALF has served primarily as a political organization since its creation in 1967.

b1, b3

We believe Ahmad's unnamed successor will continue ALF's subservience to Baghdad, which provides all of its support. (S NF)

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27 June 1991

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Lebanon-Israel

Hizballah Terrorists Reportedly Attempt To Infiltrate Israel

The Army of South Lebanon (SLA) intercepted a Hizballah terrorist team attempting to infiltrate Israel on 18 June. [REDACTED] b1 b3
 [REDACTED] The SLA reportedly killed one Hizballah member and captured another after they tried to evade a routine roadside check near Naqurah. The SLA reportedly recovered diving fins, two assault rifles, grenades, and explosives wrapped in plastic. The survivor claimed the team was planning to swim south for two hours to infiltrate the Israeli coast, hijack a vehicle, and kill as many civilians as possible. [REDACTED] b3

Hizballah "resistance operations"—including terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians—are likely to increase. The group's recently elected Secretary General, Abbas Musawi, publicly identified anti-Israeli operations as the group's first priority, and the migration of armed Hizballah fighters to south Lebanon will further exacerbate tensions. [REDACTED] b3

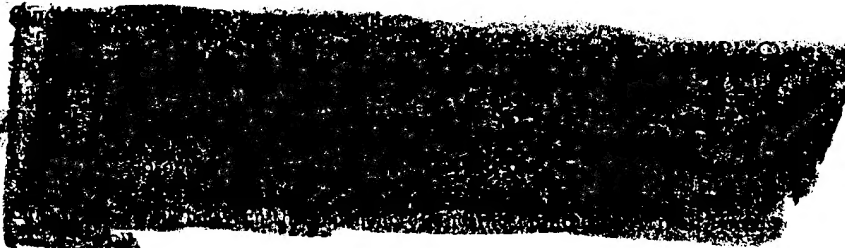
Latin America

El Salvador

Murderers of US Helicopter Crew Held by FMLN

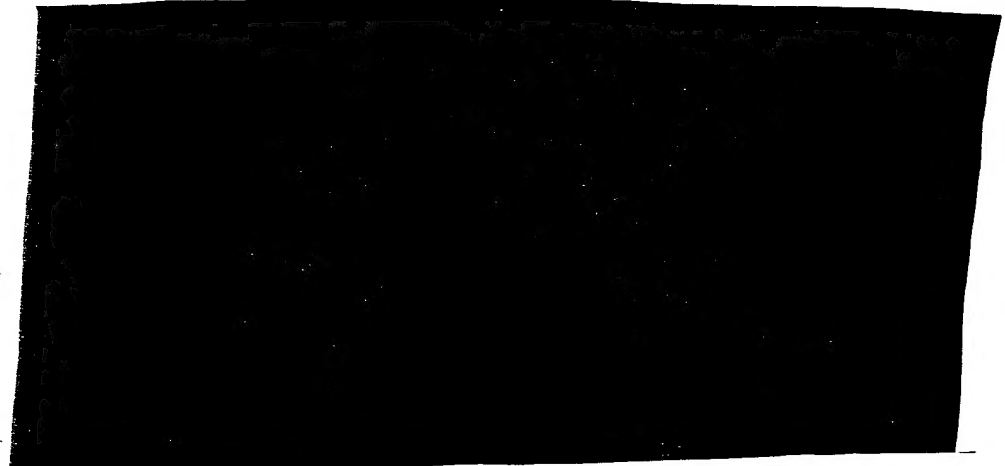
The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) still has custody of the suspected killers of two US crewmen shot after their helicopter was downed on 2 January in San Miguel department, [REDACTED] b1 b3
 The three alleged murderers [REDACTED] are being held in Morazan department awaiting investigation and possible trial by the FMLN. The group has not, however, issued any recent communiques on the status of the investigation or the individuals responsible for the murders. [REDACTED] b3

The likelihood that the FMLN will bring the accused to trial is slim, despite the bad publicity generated by the execution-style killing of the US servicemen. The incident embarrassed the FMLN, which originally claimed the two crewmen had died during the helicopter crash, and the current FMLN silence is an effort to play down the incident. The three suspects probably will be held under close guard to prevent their capture by Salvadoran Government forces. [REDACTED] b3

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South/East Asia

India

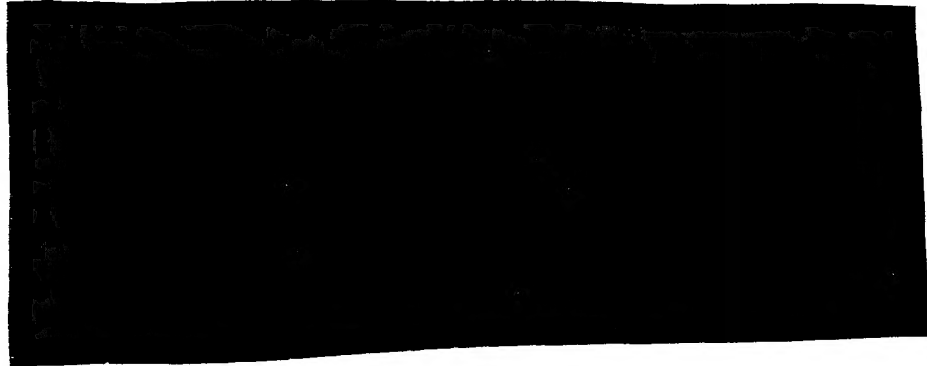
Sikh Extremists Force Election Postponement

Over the past several weeks, Sikh extremists in Punjab carried out a wave of attacks that eventually forced the government to postpone parliamentary elections in the state that had been scheduled for 22 June:

- The separatists have killed at least 24 candidates in the state since elections were announced in late April. Several terrorist groups had publicly warned candidates to withdraw and people to stay at home.
- On 15 June, Sikh militants massacred nearly 80 passengers on two separate trains near the industrial city of Ludhiana. [REDACTED] the terrorists ordered women, children, and Sikhs off the trains before opening fire on those remaining.
- In early June, the militants unsuccessfully attempted a bomb attack against Sudoh Kant Sahay, India's Home Minister, who was among the parliamentary candidates.

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India

Westerners Kidnapped in Kashmir

In early June Kashmiri militants kidnapped and briefly held two Americans and a Briton in a bid to generate publicity for their cause. The group—calling itself the Muslim Guerrilla Front, which we suspect is another name for the Muslim Janbaz Force (MJF)—kidnapped the three in Pahlgam, south of the Kashmir Valley, on 7 June. The trio escaped on 11 June while their captors were distracted [REDACTED] b1, b3

[REDACTED] The separatists told the hostages that they hoped to use them to focus international attention on Kashmir. [REDACTED]

b1, b3

[REDACTED] Swedish officials in India will try more aggressively to gain the release of two Swedish engineers kidnapped in late March by the MJF. The Swedish Embassy in New Delhi intends to establish contact with Kashmiris who may be able to broker a deal with the separatists. The Swedes earlier had hoped that the Indian Government would win the release of the pair. [REDACTED] b3

Sri Lanka

LTTE Bombing

Sri Lankan officials believe that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible for the bombing of the operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defense in Colombo on 21 June. [REDACTED] the blast, which killed at least 20 people and wounded more than 50, completely destroyed the headquarters and severely damaged three adjoining military buildings. Six other buildings also sustained damage, including the USIS American Center. According to preliminary investigations, a delivery van or small truck driven by two men and loaded with up to 100 kilograms of explosives detonated after pulling up to the gate of the headquarters. [REDACTED] the b1, b3

bombing signals the start of an LTTE campaign in southern Sri Lanka and a bid by the separatists to force the government to cut back its military operations in the northeast. [REDACTED] b3

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Syria: Improved Relations
With PFLP-GC [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

is a useful counter to PLO Chairman 'Arafat's leadership of the Palestinian movement and provides a means to hedge its bets on the Arab-Israeli peace process. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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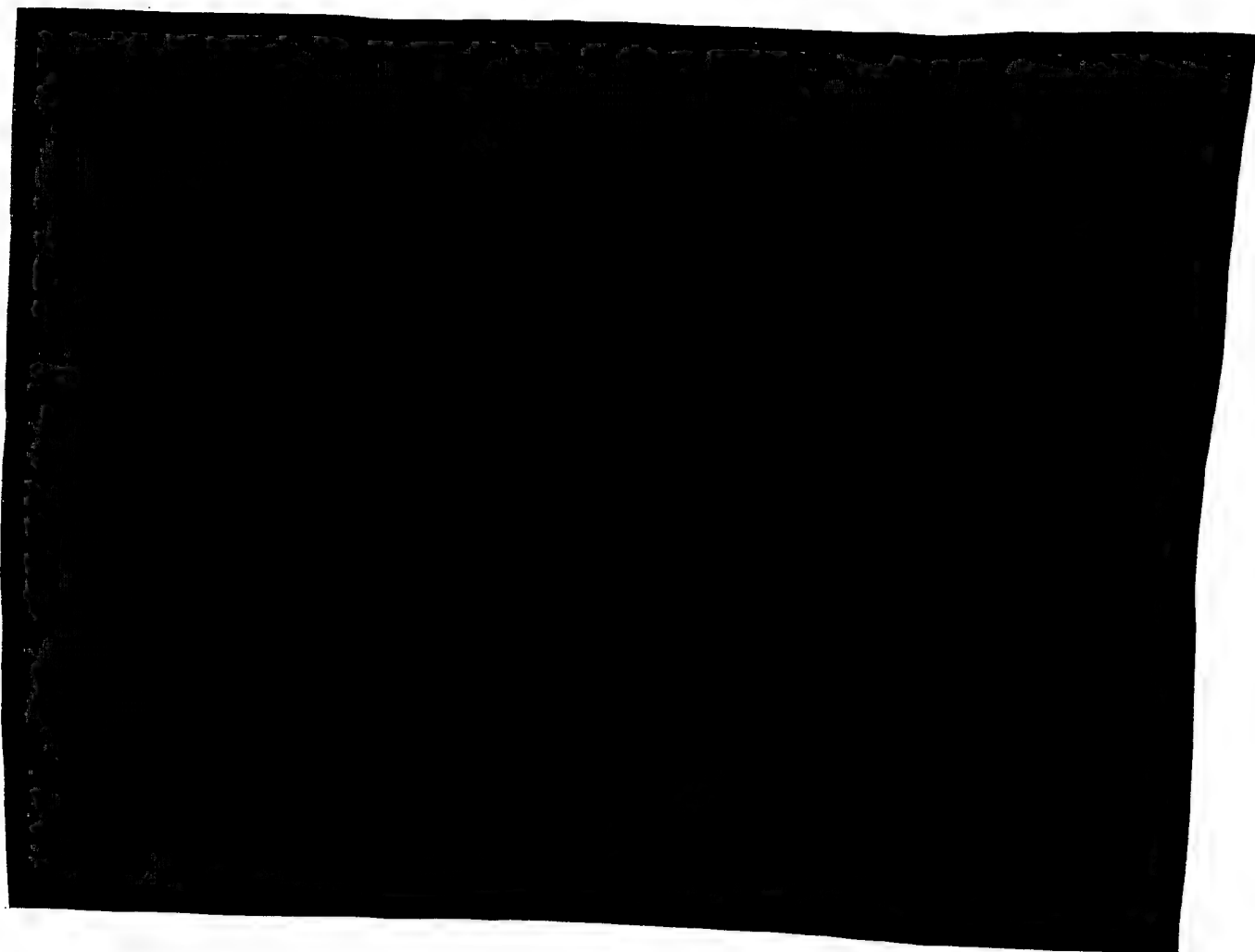
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Jabril probably recognizes that any Syrian-PLO reconciliation would be on Damascus's terms. He may be hedging his bets by continuing to explore alternative options for state support.

Syria's Perspective

Damascus is probably counting on being able to prevent anti-Western terrorist attacks by the group and continue courting Western support without sacrificing potential leverage against Israel.

Increased control over the Palestinian movement is an important Syrian objective, and the PFLP-GC poses the most credible challenge to 'Arafat of any of the Damascus-based Palestinian rejectionist groups. If the PFLP-GC rejoined the PLO, Damascus would try to use the group to broaden its own influence within that organization.

Continuing Syrian uncertainty over the prospects for the Arab-Israeli peace process gives Damascus additional incentive to retain the PFLP-GC and other Palestinian clients despite their bad reputations in the West. The Syrians remain skeptical that the United States will apply enough pressure on Israel to get the concessions needed to make a settlement acceptable to Damascus. The PFLP-GC and other Palestinian groups are potentially useful for disrupting the peace process if it moves in a direction unacceptable to Damascus.

For Syria, close ties to Jabril increase the risk of blame for PFLP-GC actions, but this is preferable to losing influence over the group to other prospective sponsors. There is no indication that Damascus has pressed Jabril to moderate his militant views, but for now Syria's stake in improved relations with the West is a strong incentive to continue constraints on his terrorist activities.

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~~Secret~~ b3The Terrorism Diary for August ~~1984~~ b3

Below is a compendium of August dates of known or conceivable significance to terrorists around the world. Our inclusion of a date or event should not by itself be construed to suggest that we expect or anticipate a commemorative terrorist event. ~~1984~~ b3

2 August 1990	<i>Iraq/Kuwait.</i> Iraq invades Kuwait.
4 August 1984	<i>Burkina.</i> Coup overthrows ruling military regime.
5 August 1960	<i>Burkina.</i> Independence Day.
5 August 1962	<i>The Bahamas/Grenada/Jamaica.</i> Emancipation Day (independence from United Kingdom).
6 August 1825	<i>Bolivia.</i> Independence Day.
6 August 1966	<i>United Arab Emirates.</i> Accession Day of Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nayhan, Emir of Abu Dhabi.
7 August 1960	<i>Ivory Coast.</i> Independence Day.
8 August 1983	<i>Guatemala.</i> Coup by Gen. Oscar Mejia Victores overthrows President Rios Montt.
9 August 1965	<i>Singapore.</i> Independence Day (secession from Federation of Malaysia).
9 August 1971	<i>Northern Ireland.</i> Internment without trial introduced.
10 August 1809	<i>Ecuador.</i> Independence Day (national day).
11 August 1952	<i>Jordan.</i> Accession Day for King Hussein.
11 August 1960	<i>Chad.</i> Independence Day.
11 August 1983	<i>Ecuador.</i> Montoneros Alfaristas steal bust of Gen. Eloy Alfaro; recognized as founding date of AVC.
12 August 1689	<i>Northern Ireland.</i> Protestant commemorative marches mark day apprentice boys locked gates of Derry against James II's forces.
13 August 1927	<i>Cuba.</i> Fidel Castro's birthday.
13 August 1960	<i>Central African Republic.</i> Independence Day.
13 August 1984	<i>Morocco/Libya.</i> Union established.

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27 June 1991

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14 August 1947	<i>Pakistan</i> . Independence Day.
14 August 1971	<i>Bahrain</i> . Independence Day.
15 August 1945	<i>North and South Korea</i> . Liberation Day.
15 August 1947	<i>India</i> . Independence Day.
15 August 1960	<i>Congo</i> . Independence Day (overthrow of Youlou regime).
15 August 1964	<i>Colombia</i> : Pro-Castro guerrilla movement. The National Liberation Army (ELN) begins armed struggle.
16 August 1960	<i>Cyprus</i> . Independence Day.
17 August 1945	<i>Indonesia</i> . Independence Day (proclamation of republic).
17 August 1960	<i>Gabon</i> . Independence Day.
19 August 1968	<i>Czechoslovakia</i> . Invasion by Soviet and Warsaw Pact troops.
20 August 1953	<i>Morocco</i> . King's and People's Revolution.
20 August 1960	<i>Senegal</i> . Independence Day (withdrawal from Mali Federation).
23 August 1944	<i>Romania</i> . Liberation Day.
25 August 1825	<i>Uruguay</i> . Independence Day.
25 August 1944	<i>France</i> . Liberation Day.
26 August 1945	<i>Hong Kong</i> . Liberation Day.
26 August 1966	<i>Namibia</i> . Namibia Day (South-West Africa came under UN control).
27 August 1985	<i>Nigeria</i> . Buhari regime overthrown by coup.
29 August 1944	<i>Czechoslovakia</i> . Slovak nationalist uprising.
31 August 1957	<i>Malaysia</i> . Freedom Day; Malaysia Day (independence from United Kingdom).
31 August 1962	<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i> . Independence Day.
31 August 1978	<i>Libya/Shia World</i> . Lebanese Shia cleric Imam Musa Sadr disappears in Libya.
31 August 1980	<i>Poland</i> . Solidarity trade union founded.

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Chronology of Terrorism—1991

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Below are described selected noteworthy foreign and international events involving terrorists or the use of terrorist tactics. These events have occurred or come to light since our last issue. In some cases, the perpetrators and their motivations may not be known. Events and developments that have already been described elsewhere in this publication are not included.

b3

Europe

16 May

Greece: A rocket is fired against the French cement factory Halyps, located in the Aspropirgos area of Attiki. The Revolutionary Organization 17 November claimed responsibility.

b3

20 May

Spain: A car bomb explodes outside the Civil Guard barracks in Casalarreina, about 60 kilometers from Logrono, causing damage to the building and some adjoining houses. Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) is suspected.

b3

21 May

Turkey: Explosive devices damage three government buildings in various districts of Istanbul within an hour. Dev Sol claimed responsibility.

b3

22 May

Germany: Former Red Army Faction (RAF) terrorist Henning Beer admits to the Regional Court in Koblenz his membership in the RAF and his involvement in the failed bomb attack on the former NATO Commander in Europe, Alexander Haig.

b3

Northern Ireland: A bomb, placed in a trash bin and set to detonate as security forces investigate a hijacked car, explodes at Belfast's Castlecourt Center, injuring a female passerby. The Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) is reportedly responsible.

b3

23 May

Italy: The Court of Appeals in Rome authorizes the extradition of Iraqi citizen Khalid Duhran Al Jawary. He is wanted in the United States in connection with terrorist actions against two Israeli banks and El Al Airlines offices.

b3

Turkey: Three gunmen shoot and wound a Turkish Jandarma brigadier general and his aide-de-camp as their vehicle leaves the general's housing area in Adana. The general died from his wounds four days later. Authorities believe Dev Sol carried out the attack on behalf of the Kurdish Worker's Party (PKK).

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27 June 1991

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Turkey: Two gunmen shoot and kill a retired Turkish Army lieutenant general at his business office in Ankara. Dev Sol claimed responsibility. b3

24 May

Spain: A series of bombings occur at hotels, apartment buildings, and restaurants in communities along the Mediterranean coast in the Provinces of Alicante and Malaga, causing property damage. ETA claimed responsibility. b3

25 May

Ireland: Gunmen shoot and kill a leading Sinn Fein councillor while he is sleeping at his home in Buncrana, County Donegal. The Ulster Freedom Fighters claimed responsibility. b3

28 May

Corsica: A car bomb damages the General Council building in Ajaccio. The National Front for the Liberation for Corsica claimed responsibility. b3

29 May

Spain: A powerful car bomb kills nine and causes a number of injuries outside the Civil Guard family quarters in Vich, Barcelona. ETA is suspected. b3

Greece: An Athens court decides to extradite to Italy Palestinian terrorist 'Abd-al-Rahim Khalid. An Italian court had convicted and sentenced him in absentia to life imprisonment for the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking. b3

30 May

Spain: A car bomb injures a national policeman in the Bilbao suburb of Basauri. ETA is suspected. b3

Spain: Two ETA members are killed and two are captured during a shootout with authorities in Barcelona. The ETA members were allegedly responsible for the bombing of the Civil Guard family quarters in Vich on 29 May 1991. b3

31 May

Greece: Two rocket explosions cause extensive fire damage to the German Lowenbrau Brewery located north of Athens in the village of Kyparisi in Attiki. b3

Northern Ireland: A PIRA truck bomb kills three Ulster Defense Regiment soldiers and injures nine at the Glenanne base in south Armagh. b3

1 June

Turkey: Separatist terrorists burn an official car and damage two others in a parking lot in the Eminonu district of Istanbul. b3

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Middle East

8 May

West Bank: Unknown assailants kidnap, interrogate, and later execute two alleged collaborators. b3

12 May

Lebanon: Two people are hurt in an explosion in a Roman Catholic Church in Sidon. b3

14 May

Lebanon: Fatah official Muhammad al-Fahd escapes an assassination attempt at 'Ayn al Hulway camp. b3

West Bank: Unknown assailants set fire to two vehicles with US Consulate plates in East Jerusalem. b3

15 May

Lebanon: Unidentified assailants throw a bomb at the residence of Fatah militia Lt. Col. Hasan al-Hallaq. b3

West Bank: A military court convicts an individual of murdering several alleged collaborators. The murderer belonged to the "Black Panther" terrorist group. b3

17 May

Gaza Strip: Masked men murder a resident of Bani Suhaylah. b3

West Bank: A Palestinian stabs and wounds three Israelis in Jerusalem. The Islamic Jihad in Palestine movement claimed responsibility. b3

Latin America

29 May

Chile: The Lautaro Youth Movement (MJL) claims responsibility for shooting at two leaders of the Center-Center Union Party (UCC) in Santiago, wounding one of them. b3

30 May

El Salvador: The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas assassinate an on duty Salvadoran National Police agent at a restaurant in San Salvador. b3

31 May

Honduras: The Popular Liberation Movement Cinchoneros (MPL-C) detonates a small explosive device near the Burger King restaurant in Tegucigalpa. The leaflets scattered around the blast area contained anti-American references. b3

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1 June

Bolivia: A bomb explodes at the El Alto airport in La Paz, causing no injuries. The basement storeroom was seriously damaged. b3

4 June

Peru: An explosive ordnance team deactivates a car bomb left at Jorge Chavez International Airport by three terrorists. No group has claimed responsibility. b3

7 June

Guatemala: Explosive charges damage a Guatemalan telephone company junction box near a USAID annex in Tegucigalpa and two others elsewhere in the city. b3

8 June

Peru: Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement released nine policemen kidnapped four weeks earlier. b3

Argentina: A bomb explosion seriously damages an Israeli bank branch in Cordoba. b3

11 June

Peru: A bomb thrown at the public registry office in southern Lima causes property damage but no injuries. b3

South/East Asia

18 May

Philippines: Bombs explode in two banks in Baguio City, causing serious damage. Authorities arrested two suspects. b3

20 May

Philippines: A grenade explodes in front of a restaurant near the Presidential Palace in Manila, killing one person and injuring 17 others. b3

21 May

Philippines: A bomb explodes at the Santa Ana Substation of Davao Light and Power Company, causing minor damage. b3

Africa

16 May

South Africa: A bomb explodes at a Pretoria restaurant, injuring eight people. b3

16 May

Mozambique: A handgrenade explodes at a musical function in Nhamitanda, Safala Province, killing four people and injuring 20 others. b3

17 May

South Africa: A bomb explodes at a shopping center in downtown Johannesburg, injuring three people. b3

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